



Reference No. 6.27

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES, APRIL 1974 (PRELIMINARY)

MAIN FEATURES

- In April 1974, 936,100 working days were lost in Australia as a result of 239 industrial disputes involving 607,800 employees. This was the second highest number of working days lost in any month since monthly figures became available in October 1969 and follows the record level of March.
- In the period January to April 1974 there were 937 industrial disputes, involving 840,900 employees and resulting in a loss of 3.4 million working days and \$63.4 million in wages. The number of working days lost in this four-month period was greater than the number lost in any full year since 1929.
- The metal products, machinery and equipment industry lost 356,400 working days in April, due mainly to stoppages in all States in support of claims for a new metal trades award.
- The construction industry lost 422,000 working days in April, due mainly to stoppages in all States by building workers in support of claims for uniform conditions of employment in the industry throughout Australia.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

This bulletin contains statistics of industrial disputes for the month of April 1974 and some previous periods. More information about these disputes will appear later in the detailed quarterly mimeograph *Industrial Disputes* (Reference No. 6.6).

2. The statistics of industrial disputes are compiled according to the Australian Standard Industrial Classification (ASIC), described in the Bureau publication *Australian Standard Industrial Classification (Preliminary Edition)*, 1969, Vol. 1. Statistics on this

basis for the years 1968 to 1972 are published in *Labour Report* No. 57, 1972 (Reference No. 6.7) and the March quarter 1973 bulletin (Reference No. 6.6).

3. The statistics of industrial disputes refer only to disputes involving stoppages of work of ten man-days or more. Workers involved include workers directly and indirectly involved in disputes. Workers indirectly involved are employees thrown out of work at the establishments where the stoppages occurred but not themselves parties to the dispute. Particulars of some stoppages (e.g. those involving a large number of establishments) may be estimated and the statistics therefore should be regarded as giving a broad measure of the extent of stoppages of work (as defined).

4. Stoppages of work occurring at different times and at different establishments but due to the same cause may be regarded as one industrial dispute. However, an industrial dispute occurring in more than one State is counted as a separate dispute in each State. A dispute involving workers in more than one industry in a State or Territory is counted only once in the number of disputes – in the industry that has the largest number of workers involved; but workers involved, working days lost and estimated loss in wages are allocated to their respective industries. Disputes not settled at the end of a year are included as new disputes in the figures for the following year. The monthly statistics refer to all disputes operative in the month, including those disputes that commenced in previous months. In Table 1 details of the number of disputes and workers involved are shown separately for disputes beginning in the month and for all disputes. Any discrepancies between totals and sums of components are due to rounding.

5. For statistics of industrial disputes for earlier periods see *Labour Report* No. 57, 1972 (Reference No. 6.7).

TABLE 1. - INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : AUSTRALIA

| Period | Number of disputes | | Workers involved ('000) | | Working days lost (a) ('000) | Estimated loss in wages (a) (\$'000) |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|-----------|-------------------------|-----------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | Beginning in month | Total (a) | Beginning in month | Total (a) | | |
| 1969 | .. | 2,014 | .. | 1,285.2 | 1,958.0 | 22,985.7 |
| 1970 | .. | 2,738 | .. | 1,367.4 | 2,393.7 | 30,883.3 |
| 1971 | .. | 2,404 | .. | 1,326.5 | 3,068.6 | 45,241.3 |
| 1972 | .. | 2,298 | .. | 1,113.8 | 2,010.3 | 32,074.4 |
| 1973 | .. | 2,538 | .. | 803.0 | 2,634.7 | 45,206.5 |
| 1973 - | | | | | | |
| April | 146 | 155 | 75.9 | 78.7 | 192.0 | 3,134.2 |
| May | 212 | 223 | 100.4 | 113.6 | 304.3 | 5,026.5 |
| June | 165 | 181 | 48.1 | 81.9 | 363.7 | 6,148.5 |
| July | 196 | 207 | 111.4 | 139.6 | 225.0 | 3,962.1 |
| August | 216 | 239 | 56.0 | 83.3 | 218.6 | 3,714.1 |
| September | 252 | 273 | 59.5 | 63.1 | 215.9 | 3,639.0 |
| October | 289 | 313 | 66.2 | 79.1 | 245.2 | 4,397.3 |
| November | 241 | 274 | 87.9 | 101.6 | 257.9 | 4,884.3 |
| December | 122 | 138 | 24.6 | 29.8 | 49.8 | 897.1 |
| 1974 - | | | | | | |
| January | 192 | 192 | 41.0 | 41.0 | 53.6 | 897.8 |
| February | 261 | 281 | 407.8 | 414.4 | 418.1 | 7,704.7 |
| March | 274 | 323 | 144.0 | 492.1 | 2,011.3 | 36,646.2 |
| April (b) | 210 | 239 | 248.2 | 607.8 | 936.1 | 18,170.9 |
| 1973 : January to April | .. | 845 | .. | 248.8 | 754.3 | 12,537.4 |
| 1974 : January to April (b) | .. | 937 | .. | 840.9 | 3,419.2 | 63,419.7 |

(a) Refers to all disputes operative in the period - see paragraph 4, page 1. (b) Subject to revision.

TABLE 2. - INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : INDUSTRIES (a), AUSTRALIA
WORKING DAYS LOST ('000) (b)

| Period | Mining | | Manufacturing | | Constru- ction | Transport and storage; communication | | Other industries | All industries |
|-----------------------------|--------|-------|--|-------|-------------------|--|-------|---------------------|-------------------|
| | Coal | Other | Metal products, machinery and equipment (c) | Other | | Steve- doring services | Other | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| 1969 | 76.1 | 76.9 | 643.6 | 267.1 | 264.4 | 136.2 | 286.4 | 207.3 | 1,958.0 |
| 1970 | 178.4 | 76.5 | 625.9 | 440.9 | 618.3 | 148.3 | 156.7 | 148.8 | 2,393.7 |
| 1971 | 251.6 | 83.2 | 636.7 | 317.7 | 1,109.5 | 73.9 | 300.1 | 295.9 | 3,068.6 |
| 1972 | 60.8 | 62.0 | 620.2 | 393.7 | 407.8 | 39.2 | 205.2 | 221.3 | 2,010.3 |
| 1973 | 87.5 | 155.3 | 800.8 | 661.4 | 439.3 | 49.5 | 93.2 | 347.6 | 2,634.7 |
| 1973 - | | | | | | | | | |
| April | 5.0 | 17.4 | 34.4 | 96.2 | 15.6 | 1.4 | 3.4 | 18.7 | 192.0 |
| May | 9.0 | 3.3 | 115.0 | 44.0 | 92.0 | 0.6 | 5.3 | 35.1 | 304.3 |
| June | 12.2 | 5.8 | 219.7 | 62.4 | 49.6 | 1.5 | 1.2 | 11.4 | 363.7 |
| July | 4.7 | 14.6 | 95.3 | 23.5 | 55.6 | 5.9 | 7.8 | 17.7 | 225.0 |
| August | 5.4 | 16.2 | 38.7 | 37.5 | 32.4 | 12.2 | 8.7 | 67.4 | 218.6 |
| September | 6.2 | 8.1 | 59.5 | 68.9 | 8.5 | 5.9 | 4.6 | 54.3 | 215.9 |
| October | 10.9 | 12.1 | 75.4 | 58.2 | 60.1 | 4.2 | 3.1 | 21.2 | 245.2 |
| November | 8.4 | 22.7 | 49.7 | 26.9 | 76.6 | 4.3 | 24.8 | 44.5 | 257.9 |
| December | 1.4 | 2.3 | 26.9 | 5.9 | 3.3 | 0.8 | 0.5 | 8.6 | 49.8 |
| 1974 - | | | | | | | | | |
| January | 1.1 | 7.5 | 13.1 | 3.0 | 5.2 | 9.3 | 3.3 | 11.2 | 53.6 |
| February | 12.2 | 10.0 | 302.5 | 27.5 | 34.5 | 6.5 | 1.6 | 23.3 | 418.1 |
| March | 52.5 | 6.0 | 1,749.7 | 66.5 | 98.1 | 9.3 | 5.1 | 24.1 | 2,011.3 |
| April (d) | 28.1 | 5.4 | 356.4 | 23.5 | 422.0 | 39.5 | 4.3 | 56.9 | 936.1 |
| 1973 : January to April | 29.3 | 70.3 | 120.6 | 334.0 | 61.4 | 14.2 | 37.1 | 87.4 | 754.3 |
| 1974 : January to April (d) | 93.9 | 28.9 | 2,421.7 | 120.5 | 559.9 | 64.5 | 14.3 | 115.5 | 3,419.2 |

(a) Australian Standard Industrial Classification - see paragraph 2, page 1. (b) Refers to all disputes operative in the period - see paragraph 4, page 1. (c) Includes ASIC sub-divisions 29, 31, 32, 33. (d) Subject to revision.

TABLE 3. — INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : STATES
WORKING DAYS LOST ('000) (a)

| Period | N.S.W. | Vic. | Qld | S.A. | W.A. | Tas. | Aust. (b) |
|----------------------------|---------|---------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----------|
| 1969 | 743.8 | 717.2 | 238.6 | 129.0 | 101.4 | 9.9 | 1,958.0 |
| 1970 | 1,393.6 | 510.8 | 179.2 | 93.1 | 141.1 | 32.2 | 2,393.7 |
| 1971 | 1,887.5 | 689.6 | 271.4 | 111.2 | 69.4 | 20.6 | 3,068.6 |
| 1972 | 866.8 | 638.4 | 292.2 | 60.9 | 94.6 | 19.2 | 2,010.3 |
| 1973 | 1,098.1 | 780.5 | 320.2 | 130.6 | 117.3 | 140.1 | 2,634.7 |
| 1973 — | | | | | | | |
| January | 32.8 | 11.2 | 4.1 | 2.6 | 7.9 | 19.1 | 82.1 |
| February | 87.0 | 86.6 | 16.7 | 14.7 | 7.7 | 33.5 | 248.4 |
| March | 110.0 | 47.4 | 18.8 | 15.2 | 10.2 | 28.5 | 231.7 |
| April | 42.9 | 92.8 | 18.2 | 5.7 | 11.7 | 9.5 | 192.0 |
| May | 125.6 | 94.2 | 56.2 | 7.9 | 7.2 | 12.4 | 304.3 |
| June | 158.5 | 91.1 | 75.6 | 3.0 | 8.7 | 18.8 | 363.7 |
| July | 90.8 | 102.0 | 17.1 | 4.2 | 9.2 | 1.6 | 225.0 |
| August | 113.0 | 33.7 | 42.8 | 7.1 | 15.7 | 2.5 | 218.6 |
| September | 91.2 | 83.2 | 25.1 | 6.8 | 4.3 | 0.2 | 215.9 |
| October | 110.3 | 87.3 | 14.9 | 15.3 | 12.9 | 1.8 | 245.2 |
| November | 125.2 | 44.6 | 27.4 | 23.3 | 21.0 | 8.5 | 257.9 |
| December | 10.8 | 6.5 | 3.4 | 24.7 | 0.8 | 3.6 | 49.8 |
| 1974 — | | | | | | | |
| January | 30.9 | 7.5 | 6.4 | 1.3 | 5.9 | 0.2 | 53.6 |
| February | 253.4 | 125.7 | 13.2 | 16.1 | 5.0 | 1.1 | 418.1 |
| March | 1,063.1 | 728.0 | 45.8 | 99.1 | 8.6 | 54.1 | 2,011.3 |
| April (c) | 351.4 | 454.8 | 67.2 | 37.2 | 16.8 | 5.2 | 936.1 |
| 1973 : January to April | 272.8 | 237.9 | 57.7 | 38.2 | 37.6 | 90.7 | 754.3 |
| 1974 : January to April(c) | 1,698.8 | 1,316.0 | 132.6 | 153.7 | 36.4 | 60.6 | 3,419.2 |

(a) Refers to all disputes operative in the period — see paragraph 4, page 1. (b) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory. (c) Subject to revision.

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NOTE. Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning Mr G. Laurie on 63 9111 extension 2055 or, in each State capital, by telephoning the office of the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

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TABLE 1 - INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION
MONTHLY DATA (1960-1970)

| Year | 1960 | 1961 | 1962 | 1963 | 1964 | 1965 | 1966 | 1967 | 1968 | 1969 | 1970 |
|-----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Index (1960=100) | 100.0 | 101.5 | 103.2 | 105.8 | 108.5 | 112.1 | 115.8 | 119.5 | 123.2 | 126.9 | 130.6 |
| Manufacturing | 100.0 | 101.2 | 102.8 | 105.2 | 107.8 | 111.2 | 114.8 | 118.2 | 121.8 | 125.2 | 128.8 |
| Construction | 100.0 | 102.5 | 105.1 | 107.7 | 110.3 | 112.9 | 115.5 | 118.1 | 120.7 | 123.3 | 125.9 |
| Electricity | 100.0 | 101.8 | 103.6 | 105.4 | 107.2 | 109.0 | 110.8 | 112.6 | 114.4 | 116.2 | 118.0 |
| Transport and communication | 100.0 | 101.0 | 102.0 | 103.0 | 104.0 | 105.0 | 106.0 | 107.0 | 108.0 | 109.0 | 110.0 |
| Other | 100.0 | 101.5 | 103.0 | 104.5 | 106.0 | 107.5 | 109.0 | 110.5 | 112.0 | 113.5 | 115.0 |

(a) Index to all output operations in the period - see paragraph 4, page 1. (b) Includes for Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.

TABLE 2 - INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION
QUARTERLY DATA (1960-1970)

| Year | 1960 | 1961 | 1962 | 1963 | 1964 | 1965 | 1966 | 1967 | 1968 | 1969 | 1970 |
|-----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Index (1960=100) | 100.0 | 101.5 | 103.2 | 105.8 | 108.5 | 112.1 | 115.8 | 119.5 | 123.2 | 126.9 | 130.6 |
| Manufacturing | 100.0 | 101.2 | 102.8 | 105.2 | 107.8 | 111.2 | 114.8 | 118.2 | 121.8 | 125.2 | 128.8 |
| Construction | 100.0 | 102.5 | 105.1 | 107.7 | 110.3 | 112.9 | 115.5 | 118.1 | 120.7 | 123.3 | 125.9 |
| Electricity | 100.0 | 101.8 | 103.6 | 105.4 | 107.2 | 109.0 | 110.8 | 112.6 | 114.4 | 116.2 | 118.0 |
| Transport and communication | 100.0 | 101.0 | 102.0 | 103.0 | 104.0 | 105.0 | 106.0 | 107.0 | 108.0 | 109.0 | 110.0 |
| Other | 100.0 | 101.5 | 103.0 | 104.5 | 106.0 | 107.5 | 109.0 | 110.5 | 112.0 | 113.5 | 115.0 |



NOTE: Figures concerning these statistics may be found in Canberra by telephoning the office of the Australian Bureau of Statistics. 3035 or, in each State capital, by telephoning the office of the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Canberra, 1971. Figures are preliminary estimates.